(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Proposal for dumping of surplus Foodgrains into Sea

136. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution has recommended that at least 205.520 metric tonnes of foodgrains be dumped into the sea to avoid storage problem;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it would be appropriate and morally justified to destroy such huge stock of foodgrains when millions starve and die of hunger and what action has been taken against those officials found responsible for this damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has recommended that in case the Government is unable to plan for disposal of rotten foodgrains, it is suggested that they may take a practical approach to clear the storage space even by throwing the foodgrains into deep sea or otherwise before on set of Rabi Season, so that next arrival of crops do not suffer for want of sufficient storage.

(b) Although the stocks of foodgrains with FCI are stored and maintained on scientific lines, some quantity of foodgrains get

damaged due to natural calamities, labour problem and their non-acceptance by the State Governments. Such foodgrains are categorized as Feed I, Feed II, Feed III, fit for industrial use/manure etc. There is a set procedure for disposal of various categories of foodgrains, unfit for human consumption, to the licensed dealers registered with FCI to ensure that these stocks are utilized appropriately.

In pursuance of the above said recommendation, it has been decided that the stocks meant for dumping are first offered to the State Government, and in case no response is received within 10 days, the same are arranged to be dumped either in the premises of FCI or even outside the municipal limits at the expense of FCI through a Committee appointed for the purpose.

(c) Whenever it is found that the stocks were damaged due to negligence on the part of certain officers/officials, suitable action is taken against them as per rules and regulations of FCI.

Sale of Wheat and Paddy to the Traders

137. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and paddy Government had sold to the traders during the year 2000; and

(b) what were the prices at which these were sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) 30.42 lakh M.Ts. wheat and 0.35 lakh M.Ts. of paddy have been sold by FCI under open/tender sale during 2000.